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Machine Poetry.

WONDERONOMY.

The world may of its wonders boast—
Its pyramids and mountains—
Its volcanoes that vomit fire,
And boiling, scalding fountains;
But there are other wonders still,
That every day confound me:
Where'er I am, where'er I go,
I mark them all around me.

I wonder how each blade of grass
Can paint itself with green,
And how the sun that's shone so long
Can hold its dazzling sheen,
I wonder how the silvery moon
Contrives to keep unworn,
And why old maids of thirty-six
Do'nt oftner look forlorn.

I wonder why the ocean rolls
Its tides upon the shore,
And why the stars that rise and set,
Don't set to rise no more;
I wonder what it is that guides
The compass to'ards the pole,
And what it is in some poor scamps
That constitutes the soul.

I wonder why that fire is hot
And why that ice is cold,
And why some wives are always mild,
While others storm and scold;
I wonder how the viewless wind
Can muster so much might,
And how a glass of brandy can
Induce a man to fight.

I wonder why the sky is blue,
And why the earth is round,
And why a strictly honest man
Cannot on earth be found;
And I do wonder furthermore
How many people live,
To whom the world will nothing lend,
And not a farthing give. Spooss.

Religious Miscellany.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

"Thou shalt not steal."

When the Creator had arranged our globe in the form in which we now behold it, he furnished it with every thing requisite for the sustenance and accommodation of living beings, and bestowed the whole of its riches and decorations as a free grant to the sons of men. To man he said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.' Ever since the period when this grant was made, God has not left himself without a witness to his benignity, in that he has unceasingly bestowed on mankind 'rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling their hearts with food and gladness.' The earth has, in every age, brought forth abundance to supply the wants of all the living beings it contains; and there is still ample room on its surface for the accommodation and support of thousands of millions of the human race, in addition to those which now exist. But mankind have never yet agreed about the division of this ample gift of the Creator; for every one is disposed to think that his share in it is too small, and is continually attempting to make inroads upon the allotment of his neighbors. To this disposition is to be ascribed more than one half of all the evils which have afflicted the world in every age since the fall of man. To counteract such a propensity in mankind, and to regulate their conduct in relation to property, is the great object of this command, 'Thou shalt not steal.'

To steal, is to take the property of others, without their knowledge or consent, and to apply it to our own use. The most flagrant breaches of the law, consist, in robbery, housebreaking, pilfering, plunder, and pillage. But it may be violated in a thousand different ways, of which human laws seldom take any cognizance. It is violated by every species of fraud by which our neighbor may be injured in his wealth or property. It is violated in the ordinary commerce of mankind, by the use of false weights and measures;—by selling deteriorated commodities as if they were sound and good; by depreciating the value of what we wish to buy, and concealing the defects of what we sell; by contracting debts which we have no prospect of discharging, and neglecting to pay them when they are due; by breaches of trust, in the case of servants, guardians, executors, or public officers, embezzling the substance of others, or applying it to their own use.—It is also violated by trespassing on the property of others, so as to injure gardens, orchards, plantations, or corn-fields; and by that disposition to vulgar mischief which delights in breaking lamps, windows, and doors; in injuring and defacing public buildings, walks, and ornamental improvements; in hacking and carving walls, wainscottings, doors, and balustrades; and in cutting down trees and shrubs planted for use or for ornament. It is violated when we retain borrowed articles beyond a reasonable time, when we suffer them to be injured through negligence, when we circulate them from one person to another without the consent of the proprietors, and when we apply them to purposes for which they were never intended, and which the lender never contemplated. In short, this law is violated by every species of idleness, vanity, gaming, and prodigality, which has a tendency to impair the external prosperity, either of our own family, or of the families of others.

Were the law which forbids those actions to be set aside, or universally violated, it is easy to foresee, that, in a short time, the whole assemblage of human beings would be transformed into a set of lawless banditti.—Peace, harmony, and good neighborhood, would be unknown among men; the strong would plunder the possessions of the weak, and deprive them of every enjoyment; children would rob their parents, and parents their children, brothers would plunder brothers, and servants their masters; buying and selling would cease, and all regular trade and commerce would be destroyed; every man's covetous eye would be directed to the wealth and property of his neighbor, with a view of depriving him of his enjoyments; and a thousand schemes, either of treachery or of open violence, would be contrived to effectuate his purpose. Murders would be daily contrived and perpetrated, for the purpose of more easily obtaining possession of the estates of the powerful and opulent; and every man's life and happiness would be at the mercy of his covetous neighbor. The inhabitants of one province would rise against those of another, and, by force of arms, plunder them of all their earthly treasures. One nation would invade the territories of another, for the purpose of ravaging its cities and provinces, and appropriating its wealth and riches; and, in the midst of such lawless depredations, towns would be demolished, villages consumed to ashes, the fruits of the earth destroyed, men, women, and children trampled under foot, and crushed to death, and every city and fertile field would present a scene of carnage and desolation. In such a state of society, no man could have confidence in his brother; fear would be on every side; uncertainty would attend every pursuit and possession; of the wealth which any one had acquired, and of the enjoyments which he possessed to-day, he might be deprived before to-morrow; and if, by means of vigilance, and the strong arm of power, he were enabled to maintain possession of his property for one year, he could have no rational ground to expect that he would enjoy it in security for another. And, as no one would think of engaging in regular labor, while he could subsist in plundering his weaker neighbors—the earth would soon be left uncultivated, the useful arts would be abandoned, agricultural industry and improvement would cease, and a universal famine would overspread every land, which would thin the human race, and gradually exterminate them from the face of the earth.

Such scenes of plunder and depredation, have in fact been partially realized in every age and nation of the world, and are still realized, to a certain extent, even in nations which boast of their progress in religion, civilization, and science. The annals of the human race contain little more than a series of melancholy records of wholesale robbery, committed by one tribe of human beings upon another. One public robber and desperado has arisen after another in constant succession, and, at the head of numerous armies, has violated the territories of peaceful industry, demolished the habitations of their unoffending inhabitants, broken down their furniture, and consigned it to the flames; wasted and devoured the fruits of their ground, and plundered them of every thing which could render existence desirable. And the inferior ranks of mankind, stimulated by the same principles which actuate their superiors, have supported a system of peculation, of cheating, of litigation, of injustice and oppression, which, were it left solely to its own native energies, would soon undermine the foundations of the moral world. That such principles and practices have never yet become universal in their operation, is not owing so much to any deficiency in their malignant tendency, as to the overruling providence of the Moral Governor of the world, who has, by his influence, and his physical arrangements, confined the lawless passions of men within certain bounds, beyond which they cannot pass.

Were a principle of honesty and of justice, in regard to property, to pervade the mind of every human being; or, in other words, were the law to which I am now adverting universally recognized, a new scene would open upon the moral world, altogether different from what has hitherto been displayed in the transactions of mankind. The iron rod of oppression would be broken, and destroying armies would no longer ravage the habitations of men. The crowds of sharpers, cheats, and jockies, that now stalk through the world, with unblushing fronts, to entrap the unwary, would for ever disappear from the world. Impartial justice would reign triumphant over every department of society; and all the harassing lawsuits and prosecutions, which now distress so many thousands of families, would be swept away. Every loan of books, furniture, or utensils, would be returned without injury, and without unnecessary delay; and every debt punctually discharged, according to the nature of the obligation, and at the period at which it is due; every bargain would be transacted on the principles of immutable justice, and the conditions of every contract faithfully performed; no suspicions of knavery would ever harbor in the breast, nor the least alarm at the possible consequences of any mercantile transaction. Public buildings would be secure from the inroads of the genius of mischief, and gardens and orchards from every wanton depredation. Locks, and bars, and bolts, would no longer be required for securing our substance from the pilferer and the robber; and the iron gratings of a bridewell or a jail, would never again remind us of the dishonesty and depravity of man. Servants would be universally honest and trustworthy, and the property of their masters would be regarded as a sacred deposit.

And what a happy change would such a state of society introduce among mankind! What a host of cares, anxieties, suspicions, vexations, and perplexities, would be chased away! and what a world of conveniences, and of delightful associations would thus be created! Every merchant, by marking the price and the quality of each commodity, might leave his goods open for the inspection of the public, and enjoy himself either in the bosom of his family, or in active services for the good of the community, without the least risk of loss or of depredations; and every purchaser might depend upon procuring the articles he wanted at their just value. Every traveller would prosecute his journey, either by day or by night, without the least apprehension from sharpers or robbers, and without being harassed with the impositions of innkeepers, coachmen, carriers, and porters. Every one's mind would be at perfect ease in regard to his property, whether he were at home or abroad, in health or in sickness; being firmly persuaded that every trust would be faithfully discharged, and every commercial concern fairly and honorably transacted. Selfishness and rapacity would give place to a spirit of justice and equity; contentions, jockeyings, and alterations would cease; peace and concord would prevail, and righteousness and truth would shed their benign influence over the whole brotherhood of mankind.

He who prays against his spiritual enemy as he might to do, is like a man fighting on his knees: his very posture shows he neither will nor can run away. Lip devotion will not serve the purpose, it undervalues the very thing it prays for. It is indeed the beginning of a denial, and shall certainly be answered in what it begs; but he who truly and sensibly knows the invaluable happiness of being delivered from a temptation, and the unspeakable misery of sinking under it, will pray against it as a man ready to starve would beg for bread, or a man sentenced to die would entreat for life.

Popular Readings.

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

THE STRIPED FROCK.

'There, Lucinda, you cannot help admitting that we have had a fine walk this afternoon,' exclaimed Caroline Hale to her sister, as they entered their chamber after a rural excursion. It was a sultry August day, and Lucinda, instead of answering her sister, threw off her bonnet, and fastened back the blind from the open window. 'Now you are not willing to own that we have had a pleasant walk,' continued Caroline, 'because you went so reluctantly.'

'You know, sister, that my reluctance was owing to the extreme heat and a trifling indisposition. But I feel better for the ramble, and must say that I liked our company and was interested in the conversation.'

'That's a good girl,' said the laughing Caroline; 'I supposed you would have said that the Russels were ostentatious, trifling, or superficial, or something of that sort.'

'You know I do not intend to be censorious, Caroline, and as to your gallant to-day, I could not express my opinion. He devoted his attention so entirely to you, that I had no opportunity of becoming a critic with regard to him. His sister is a pretty girl, and seems to enjoy her visit to our little town extremely. I love our own scenery so well that I cannot help feeling interested in every one who admires it.

'Lucinda, I believe I like home well enough, but I never can think as you do about our rough hills. They do well enough for farmers who want sheep pastures, but what there is about them so very beautiful, I never could imagine. I always wondered what induced father to settle here. He might have established himself in some more populous place, have had more genteel society, and lived in very different style from what he does now, even if he owned no more property.'

'Very likely he might, Caroline, but you know father is not very ambitious about making a show. We have often heard him speak of a change in his opinions and feelings since his youth. He says he thought that wealth could make him happy, but he feels now that a contented spirit and domestic affection are better than gold. I think we both ought to profit by his experience.'

'Probably you will, Lucinda, for as mother says, you are father to the very core. For my part, I dislike quite so much cant about republican habits. If I ever marry, I mean to have a man who is not afraid of being too fashionable and stylish. I am sure we have seen mother afflicted so much by father's odd notions, that I think we ought to profit by *her* experience.

Lucinda, for a few minutes, did not answer. She knew there were weak points in her mother's character, but she hesitated about making them a subject of conversation, even with her sister. But she reflected that Caroline was younger than herself, and had ever been her mother's pet. She felt pained to perceive daily the influence exerted over her young mind by her mother's vanity and indiscretion.

After some consideration, she replied, 'Our mother is a good, amiable woman, Caroline, and we are both deeply indebted to her care and kindness. I should be sorry to say a word that would diminish your respect for her, but you know, sister, that she is very much influenced by aunt Kimball. Now aunt Kimball does not consider that what is perfectly proper for herself and daughters in such a place as Boston would be almost ridiculous for us. Their dress and customs are in accordance with their station, and with the dress and customs of their associates. So are ours. We even dress better than most young ladies in our circle. True we wear calico and gingham dresses at home, instead of expensive silks and muslins, and father requires us to assist in household duties. I believe we are happier for it. Your understanding, Caroline, if you consult it, would teach you the foolishness of our wearing fifty dollar shawls and thirty dollar bonnets in such a place as S——. Our extravagance would be censured by our best friends. How should we look after walking out as we have this afternoon, through bush and briar, dressed like ladies promenading in Cornhill! Even our sensible city acquaintances would laugh at us. Probably Franklin Russel, with whom you have chatted so much to-day, will not respect you the less for having your dress adapted to the occasion, and something like that worn by our country companions. I am sure mother wishes to do every thing for our good, but I think she does not consider what is best and most becoming in our present circumstances.'

'I do believe, Lucinda, that if you were settled among the Choctaws, you would think it best to paint like a squaw. I know, after all, what makes you talk so much about fitness and propriety. It is because Nelson Newhall wears a striped frock, and you think it is well adapted to a man who holds a plough, and 'drives his team a-field.' As for myself, I never was in love with a striped frock, and never intend to be.'

This, as Caroline anticipated, was touching Lucinda in an extremely sensitive point, and she did not attempt to reply. She immediately found her services required below, and hastily ran down to make arrangements for the evening meal.

We have now introduced the reader to the two daughters of Squire Hale, a gentleman of considerable property and influence in a pleasant county town in the interior of Massachusetts. He was a self educated man of unbending good principles, and without being a genius, was possessed of an uncommon share of what is denominated 'common sense.'

Beneath an exterior not remarkably polished, he concealed a heart and temper that would bear the strictest scrutiny. He settled in Massachusetts in his youth, and had 'never changed nor wished to change his place.' Why should he? He possessed the confidence of the community, was happy among his friends, and his family ranked among the first in the county.—Some twenty-five years before the commencement of our tale, he became accidentally acquainted with Miss Caroline Osgood, a young lady from Boston. She was extremely pretty, and her bright smile and fascinating manners made a hasty conquest of his heart.—He was not the man to marry, however, without trying to consult his judgment. He knew she was not striving to cultivate her intellect, but she said she loved reading, and he was sure he wanted nothing *blue* about a wife. If she loved reading that was enough. Then she had not been accustomed to any domestic employments, but if she wished to learn the proper management of a household, what could be easier! Besides his income was already sufficient for a comfortable maintenance without the assistance of a wife, and Miss Osgood's property would increase it. She was certainly amiable and cheerful, and he doubted not would render his fireside happy. Nothing less could be expected, then, considering he was already in love, than that judgment should decide in favor of offering his hand without delay. It was done accordingly, and after she had consulted all her friends, who pronounced it a good match, the offer was accepted, and in due time she became Mrs Hale.

We would gladly tell our readers that after the acquisition of a companion so lovely, Squire Hale found himself perfectly happy. Truth, however, would not warrant such a statement. For a time he considered himself so, but was ere long forced to feel his disappointment. *His* interest was not *her* interest; his most valuable friends she lightly esteemed. She professed to respect them, but they were so *countrified*, had so little polish or refinement, that they were scarcely fit for a lady's parlor. She did not think it necessary even to superintend her domestic affairs, but employed her hours in reading novels, and in such trifling work as was little better than absolute idleness. She expected unlimited indulgence, made extravagant demands upon his purse, and determined to guard his doors from the familiar intrusion of the unfashionable people who had been her husband's former acquaintance and friends.

Square Hale saw all this with uneasiness and anxiety. He found his authority must interpose or his home would never be the home of his heart. He labored to convince his wife of her folly, and even went so far as to put a veto on many of her plans. He loved her and attributed her faults wholly to education and inexperience, and by firmness and judicious management, after a long time, succeeded in eradicating many of her notions. Two lovely daughters at length claimed her care, and implanted in her heart such devoted affection as made her in many respects a different woman.

After some few years her husband had almost forgotten that she was ever the frivolous, useless being he had first known her. Notwithstanding her character was so much altered, she retained quite enough of her originality to render her, in many respects, a foolish mother. She taught her children to look with contempt upon village customs; upon all those who earned their bread by honorable labor, and to consider themselves designed for something above country life. It was galling to her pride that their father permitted them to attend a public school, where they must associate with the children of farmers and mechanics.—But Square Hale would have it so, and she was forced to submit to it. At home she exerted all her influence to counteract the ideas she feared they would acquire at school, and every one knows a mother's influence is great over affectionate inexperienced daughters.—They imbibed many of her feelings and opinions, and suffered the loveliness of their sunny age to be clouded by useless ideas of consequence and superiority.

Years rolled by, and they both became young ladies. They were both called handsome, though their style of beauty was very different. Lucinda, the eldest, was a little of a brunette, with large hazel eyes, dark hair, and a shade of thought upon her brow. She resembled her father in person: was taller and less volatile in her movements than her sister. Caroline was a fairy in figure, and a native grace was seen in every motion. Her blue eye and flaxen hair proclaimed her relationship to the Osgood family; and sweet was the smile that played over her features in hours of joy and sunshine. The minds of the two sisters were still more unlike than their figures and complexion. They had attended the same school, mingled with the same society, yet they were essentially different in their tastes and inclinations.

Two seeds germinated in the bosom of the earth; their growth is accelerated by the same sunshine, air and moisture, yet although growing side by side they become totally different in their natures. To these products of the soil we might compare Lucinda and Caroline Hale. Both were naturally amiable in temper; but the one found her highest enjoyment in cultivating her understanding and attending to her duties, the other in ornamenting her person, and enlarging the circle of her acquaintances. Lucinda had always been strongly attached to her father, and perhaps it was from him her mind received its early bias. It might be possible however, that a careful observer would have traced it to another source.

As we mentioned before, the two sisters in their childhood and early youth, attended the public schools of their native village; such schools as are ever open to rich and poor in happy New England. In the one they attended was a talented, high spirited youth, older by a year or two than Lucinda Hale. He was the only son of a virtuous and sensible farmer in the neighborhood, and was destined by his parents to follow the plough, and procure his livelihood from the same grounds which had been owned in the family through three or four generations. His intelligent eye, cheerful countenance, and native intellect, made him the favorite of every new teacher, and many a gentleman's son found himself outstripped in his studies by the industry of Nelson Newhall. Adeline, his sister, in many respects resembled him, and both were beloved by their companions and commended by their instructors.

With the children of the laboring class in general, Mrs Hale contrived to prevent her daughters from associating too freely, but in the case of the two Newhalls it was a little beyond her control. Squire Hale, who felt an interest in every thing connected with the rising generation, frequently spoke of the promising children of his townsman and expressed a wish that *his* children might be equally a credit to the school, and equally honored among their companions. His wife rather sneered at the idea, but did not think it prudent to interpose, so Lucinda and Caroline were allowed to treat the Newhalls with a little more respect than they were wont to do the children of farmers in general. Adeline and Lucinda sat in the same form at school, attended to the same studies, were assisted by Nelson to find answers to difficult questions, and at playtime were indebted to his ingenuity for one half of their amusements. He seemed almost equally a brother to both, and in a thousand sports and occupations of their innocent years, was their adviser and constant companion.

As they grew towards womanhood, the two girls became still more intimate, the one probably influenced by pity the other by gratitude. The lovely, interesting Adeline had become an invalid. She was still able to occupy her usual seat in the school room, but the peculiar delicacy of her look, and largor of her appearance, led her friends to fear that the blossom was wilting on its native stem.

At the close of that school Lucinda and her sister were sent to the Academy in B. When the first quarter ended they visited home, and Lucinda, true to her school-day friend, made her first call at the farmhouse of the Newhalls. Mrs. Hale rather encouraged her than otherwise, for even she had learned to look with interest upon the stricken girl. She saw that—

She was waning to the tomb,
The worm of death was in her bloom.

And her naturally kind heart led her to pity both the parents and the child. It never once occurred to her mind that a daughter of hers could look with partiality on the handsome Nelson; therefore Lucinda was suffered to spend as many hours with Adeline as she chose. Nelson was the idolized son and brother, and when his occupations permitted was ever in the house to cheer his mother or amuse his suffering sister.

Perhaps Lucinda's frequent calls made him more attentive than he would have been otherwise, for notwithstanding he was little more than seventeen, he regarded her with a feeling very different from the usual partialities of boyhood. That feeling was reciprocated, and though never analyzed and never spoken, was daily gaining strength on both sides.

It was in Adeline's sick room that Lucinda's mind first received the impress of early piety. The Newhalls were not only descended from our Puritan fathers, but they felt in themselves that trust in God which had comforted their ancestors while inhabitants of a wilderness. Adeline had been taught to worship the God of her parents, and even at an early age, had sought and found the Savior 'whom to know aright is life eternal.' She frequently conversed with her friend upon the realities of the unseen world and upon the strong consolations granted her when heart and flesh were failing.

Lucinda saw her patience under suffering and her willingness to leave the world when all was bright around her, and she was led to reflect upon the value of that faith which could so buoy the spirit in a day of trial.

The vacation was over, and she returned to school. It was with deeper feelings than common to her age that she looked back upon her native village, and tho't how long it would be ere her return. She felt for the first time that the world before her offered nothing to compensate for the deprivation she was about to experience. Every object around home was clothed with new interest; her parents seemed more than ever dear to her; and the vine covered farmhouse where Adeline was fading, and Nelson springing into manhood was regretted perhaps more than all. Let it proceed from what cause it might, from that time, her character seemed materially altered. She evinced a firmness in her opinions, and a benevolence in her disposition, and a gentleness in her manner which she had never done before.

Ere the Spring of the succeeding year had put forth its leaves and expanded its thousand blossoms, Adeline Newhall rested beneath the shadow of the village church. As is customary in the country she was followed to her long home by nearly all the inhabitants of the place. Many a feeling of sympathy was elicited by the appearance of subdued sorrow on the part of the father and mother; but Nelson's irrepressible grief, as he looked into the open grave into which Adeline's coffin had been lowered, caused the tear to spring in almost every eye.

As for Lucinda her heart was almost broken. She had never before known grief herself, or felt more than momentary sympathy with that of others. She felt then that she could willingly resign all the luxuries of her affluent home to supply the place of their lost daughter to the stricken parents, and be a sister and a friend to Nelson, whose usually elastic spirit was now bowed to the earth.

It was soon after the funeral of Adeline that the first suspicions of an attachment between her daughter and the young farmer entered the mind of Mrs. Hale. All her native pride and ideas of family consequence rebelled at the thought. At first she could scarcely think it possible, but the more she reflected on Nelson's handsome figure and interesting character, the more she feared its probability. Yet could it be that Lucinda, so well instructed, with a taste so carefully cultivated, could think for a moment upon a youth who wore a frock!

'Oh,' said she to Caroline as they were alone in the parlor, 'if you ever live to marry, be sure and never marry a man like your father. You don't realize how much trouble he has occasioned me. I have always endeavored to bring up my children as they should be, but he has thwarted me and vexed me to death. I was always opposed to your being sent to a common school, where you would associate with every thing, but I could not have my own way. No. He though the children to S—— were generally orderly and well instructed, and his children must not be taught to feel above their neighbors. Such aristocratic notions would never do in a republic. Now he may see what his republicanism has brought upon us. I wish he was here, for I want to know what he will say when he hears about this.'

'Mother,' said Caroline, 'I would not tell father any thing about it. Just as likely as not he would think it was a fine thing. You know he says a great deal about industry, and it may be he would think it was a pretty notion for Lucinda, with all her accomplishments, to be tending dairy and turning a spinning wheel. He is always afraid we shall not be kept in the kitchen enough, and I expect he would like to have us marry farmers or mechanics for the good of the country, as he tells about.'

Caroline's reasoning had its effect. Mrs. Hale reflected upon it, and finally came to the conclusion, that it would be better to say nothing about it, but send her daughters to a boarding school in Boston, as soon as they could make the necessary arrangements. There Lucinda and Nelson would not see each other, and probably their foolish partiality would in a short time be forgotten.

A few evenings before the two sisters were to leave for Boston, 'Squire Hale and his wife were absent, and Caroline deeply engaged in reading a new novel in her chamber. Lucinda was alone, and as she saw the hues of sunset fading in the west, her mind recurred to the circumstances of Adeline's death and burial. She involuntarily repeated the words of a favorite poet:—

"Oh my friend,
When I recall thy worth,
Thy lovely life, thine early end,
I feel estranged from earth."

A feeling of melancholy crept over her, and she de-